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Author:
U.S. National Recovery Administration
Title:
The foundry equipment manufacturing industry
Place:
[Washington, D.C.]
Date:
1933

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THE FOUNDRY EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

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Alexander Sachs
Chief

THE FOUNDRY EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Prepared by

John A. Hanley

R. von Huhn

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Employment

The number of wage earners of the industry, according to the Trade Association, has shown a substantial decrease each year as compared with the preceding years, from 1930 to 1933. The number employed in 1929 was 1,437 and in 1933 only 480 which represents a decrease of 66.6%.

NUMBER OF WAGE EARNERS

Year	Number of wage earners	Per cent change
1928	1,261	
1929	1,437	+ 14.0
1930	1,061	- 26.9
1931	740	- 29.6
1932	546	- 26.2
1933	480	- 12.1

Data showing fluctuations in employment to meet the seasonal demand of the industry are not available but the association reports that they have two major peaks, Spring and Fall, of every normal year. This is substantiated by fluctuations shown in monthly shipment figures. The cycles of this industry necessarily follow the cycles of numerous

other major industries using foundry equipment.

Average Hours

The continued decline in production, shipments, and employment from 1929 to 1933 was accompanied by a decrease in working hours per week. The average hours per week in 1929 were 49.2 and in 1933, 33.2 or a decrease of 32.5%.

Year	Number of wage earners	Average Hours per week	Total Man-hours per week
1929	1,437	49.2	70,700
1933	480	33.2	15,936
Decrease	66.6%	33.5%	77.5%

With production remaining at present levels no additional employment will be created by the 40-hour week. In fact, if the full possibilities of the 40-hour week were realized even fewer employees would be needed. If the present plans of the National Recovery Administration are successful in restoring business to the levels of previous years, the industry anticipates that the provisions of the code will increase the maximum record employment in the industry by at least 25%. This is based on the fact that the normal hours

have been 48 for the industry. The 40-hour provision of the code is in line with provisions in other capital goods codes.

Average Wages

Reports submitted by the association show that average hourly earnings for skilled and semi-skilled labor have declined from 44¢ in 1929 to 42.5 in 1933, representing a decrease of only 3.6%. Approximately 90% of the labor of this industry is skilled and semi-skilled with no one particular type of employment becoming a predominating class.

Year	Average hourly earnings	Hours per week	Average weekly earnings
1929	44¢	49.2	$ 21.65
1933	42.5	33.2	14.11

The estimated weekly earnings show a decline from $21.65 in 1929 to $14.11 in 1933, or 34.8%.

Frequency Distribution by Hourly Earnings

A special report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics on

Hours and Wages in the Foundries and Machine Shops for 1931, shows number of workers receiving specified hourly earnings. This distribution is perhaps indicative of workers in the Foundry Equipment Industry. It demonstrates the preponderance of highly paid workers in the industry, in the fact that over 40% of the skilled group received more than 65¢ per hour.

Minimum Wage Adoption

No data are available on the minimum wage paid by the industry or wages paid for common labor but, due to the technical nature of the work requiring a high proportion of skilled workers, it is not likely that the adoption of a 40¢ minimum hourly wage will affect the total wage bill to a very appreciable extent.

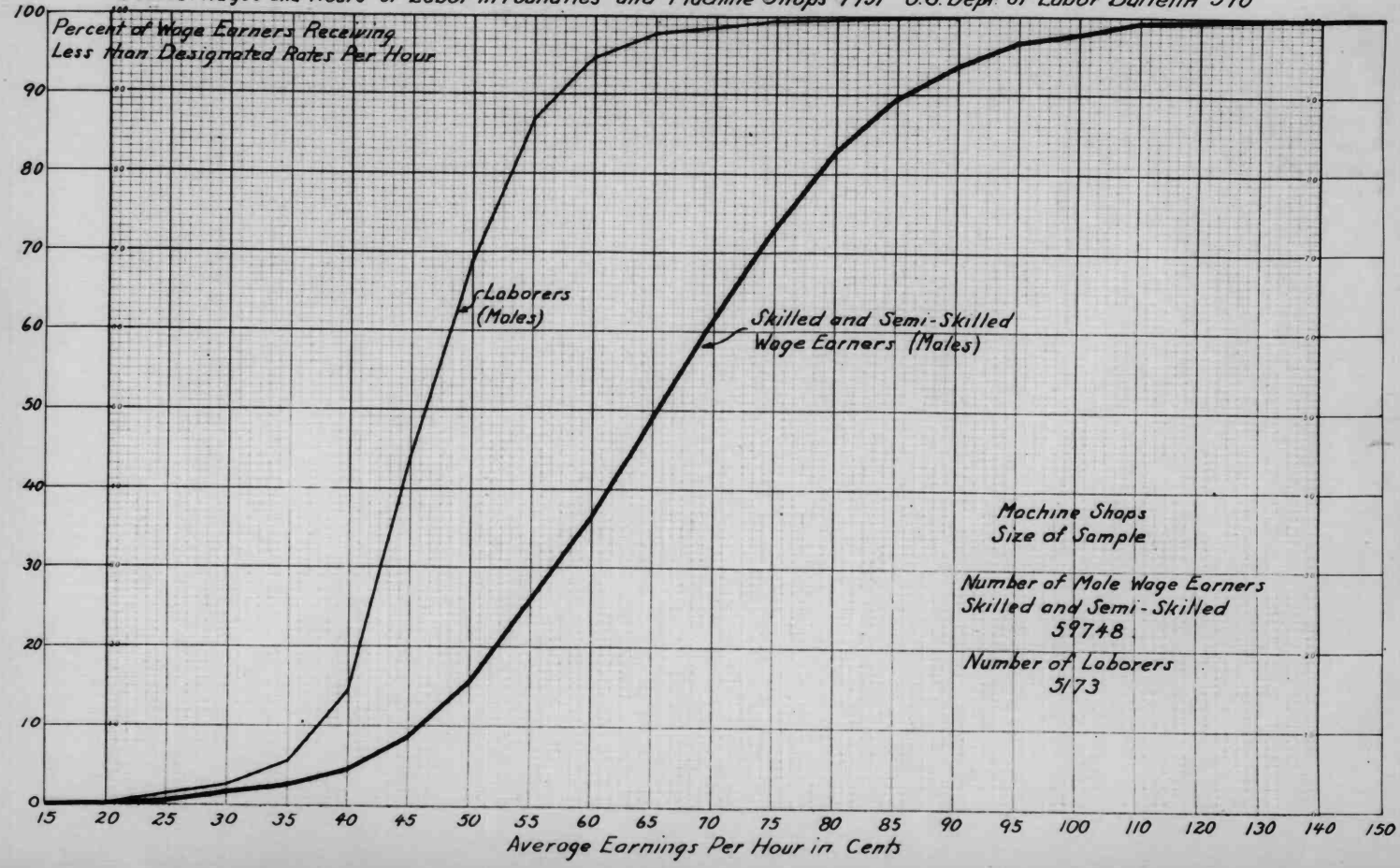
Conclusions

The wage and hour provisions of this code appear adequate and equitable and are in line with other and approved codes for similar industries such as the Washing and Ironing Machinery Industry, the Paper Making Machine Builders' Industry, the Gear Manufacturing Industry and others.

Exhibit 2.

CLASSIFIED EARNINGS PER HOUR IN MACHINE SHOPS 1931
CUMULATIVE BASIS
SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED WAGE EARNERS AND LABORERS

Source: Wages and Hours of Labor in Foundries and Machine Shops 1931 U.S. Dept. of Labor Bulletin 570



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